

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

SS-15 NSC-05 /061 W

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R 141845Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1828

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2698

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS' VISIT TO ANKARA

REF: ANKARA 3378

1. SYG LUNS BRIEFED PERMREPS IN HIS OFFICE MAY 13 ON HIS APRIL 28-29 VISIT TO ANKARA. LUNS NOTED AT OUTSET THAT HE HAD ALREADY BRIEFED GREEK PERMREP WHO WAS NOT PRESENT. LUNS ADDED THAT WHEN HE FIRST RECEIVED INVITATION TO VISIT ANKARA HE HAD DISCUSSED TRIP WITH GREEK PERMREP AND HAD BEEN ADVISED NOT TO VISIT ATHENS AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF CURRENT ANTI-NATO FEELING IN GREECE.

2. LUNS DESCRIBED HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF TURKISH GOVERNMENT ALONG LINES REPORTED REFTEL. ALL TURKISH LEADERS, LUNS SAID, HAD EXPRESSED DESIRE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH GREECE IN FRIENDSHIP AND NOT TO HUMILIATE GREEKS. TURKS, HOWEVER, ELABORATED ON NUMBER OF BRIEVANCES INCLUDING CYPRUS, GREEK REINFORCEMENT OF DODECANESE, POSSIBLE GREEK EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL SEA CLAIMS, AND GREEK INTERFERENCE WITH TURK ELECTRONIC AND AIR COMMUNICATIONS WITH OTHER NATO ALLIES. TURKS SAID THEY HAD ALWAYS SOUGHT TO FULFILL OBLIGATIONS TO NATO. NOW, HOWEVER, WHEN EMBARGO OF U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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MILITARY SUPPLIES MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR TURKS TO CARRY OUT NATO DUTIES, NATO MEMBERS APPEARED MORE INTERESTED IN PLACATING GREEKS THAN IN HELPING TURKEY. TURKS ALSO COMPLAINED GREEKS WERE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATING IN NATO DECISION

MAKING PROCESS EVEN THOUGH GREEKS HAD WITHDRAWN FROM NATO MILITARY STRUCTURE.

3. LUNS SAID HE TOLD TURKS HE HAD COME TO ANKARA TO LISTEN AND NOT TO MEDIATE--A TASK FOR WHICH HE HAD NO MANDATE. LUNS, HOWEVER, DESCRIBED POINTS HE HAD MADE TO ASSUAGE TURK CONCERNS. HE TOLD TURKS THEY HAD RIGHT TO WORRY ABOUT GREEK INFRINGEMENT OF TREATY OBLIGATIONS ON DEMILITARIZATION OF DODECANESE BUT WERE WRONG TO THINK GREEKS WOULD RESORT TO FORCE AGAINST TURKS SINCE RESULTS WOULD CLEARLY BE CATASTROPHIC FOR GREEKS. LUNS HAD EXPRESSED VIEW THAT U.S. CONGRESSIONAL CUTOFF OF MILITARY SUPPLIES TO TURKEY HAD IN FACT BOMMERANGED AND INCREASED SYMPATHY FOR TURKEY WITHIN ALLIANCE. LUNS EXPLAINED IN DETAIL TO TURKS EFFORTS UNDERWAY WITHIN NATO TO MEET TURKS' MILITARY NEEDS AND STATUS AND BASIS CONTINUED GREEK RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO.

4. LUNS SAID HE HAD EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT IT WAS IN INTEREST OF NATO AND TURKS TO STRENGTHEN CARAMANLIS WHOSE AUTHORITY WAS NOT AS SECURE AS IT SEEMED FROM OUTSIDE. NOTING THAT TURKS HAD BETTER CARDS AND CALMER TEMPERAMENT THAN GREEKS, LUNS TOLD TURKS HE HOPED THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE A CONCILIATORY GESTURE TOWARD GREECE. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT TURKS DID NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO GIVE IN TO U.S. CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE BUT HE HOPED THAT TURKS COULD FIND A GESTURE THEY WOULD HAVE MADE WVEN WITHOUT PRESSURE. THE MAIN OBJECTIVES, LUNS TOLD THE TURKS, SHOULD BE AMELIORATE THE PRESENT TENSE SITUATION, TO AVOID UNHELPFUL PUBLIC POLEMICS, AND TO WORK FOR STEP-BY-STEP SOLUTION TO GREEK-TURK PROBLEMS. BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO02698
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 XGDS-1
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750599/abbrzjzr.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ANKARA 3378
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <30 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS' VISIT TO ANKARA
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, TU, CY, GR
To: STATE INFO ANKARA
ATHENS
LONDON
NICOSIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

